DPI Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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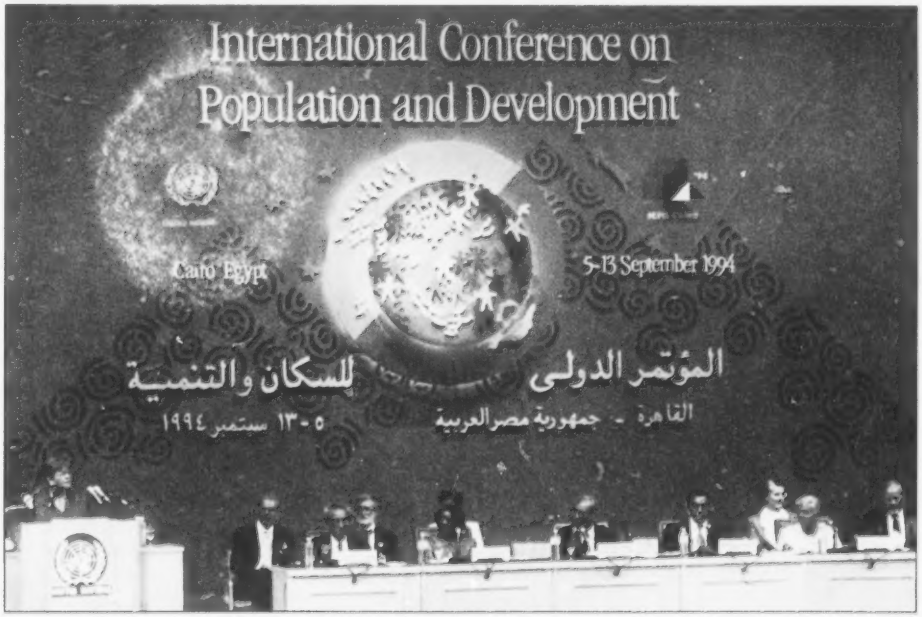
22 September 1994

SECRETARY-GENERAL OPENS CAIRO CONFERENCE

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called for rigour, tolerance and conscience as the guiding principles in the discussion of the issues before the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In his opening statement to the Conference on 5 September, he noted that world population was sky-rocketing, especially in the poorest countries of the world. "Indifference and inaction" would be crimes against these principles, he said, and urged that States be supported in their efforts to control population increase.

The Secretary-General also stressed that educating and mobilizing women were essential to the success of all population and development policies.

On the principle of tolerance, he called on the participants to be sensitive to individual cultures, societies and traditions. Likewise, he said, delegates should avoid becoming trapped in absurd and outmoded disputes over words. Tolerance must be mutual, he stated, for a given philosophical, moral or spiritual belief should not be allowed "to be imposed upon the entire international community or to block the progress of humanity".



The opening session of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, 5-13 September.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

NEW DIRECTORS OF UNIC HARARE AND UNIC LAGOS

Janet Badjan-Young has left **UNIC Port of Spain** in Trinidad and Tobago to travel to Nigeria to assume her new responsibilities as Director of **UNIC Lagos**. The previous Director of UNIC Lagos, Ceciwa Khonje, has now taken up her duties in Zimbabwe, as the new Director of UNIC Harare.

Janet Badjan-Young.

Before her assignment as the Director of UNIC Port of Spain, Ms. Young, a national of Gambia, was an Information Officer for many years at HABITAT in Kenya. She brings to Nigeria her wide experience from Kenya and Sierra Leone in communications, especially in broadcasting and film.

Ms. Khonje, a national of Malawi, was Chief of the African Unit, UN Radio, before her appointments as Director of UNIC Lagos and now UNIC Harare. She has many years of public information experience, including radio broadcasting in Zambia and the Netherlands.

Ceciwa Khonje.

UNIC ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE POPULATION ISSUES

UNIC Jakarta has translated the press kit for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development into Bahasa Indonesia and distributed it to media and NGO representatives.

UNIC New Delhi has translated the draft Programme of Action and the draft declaration of the Population Conference into Hindi.

A seminar on population and sustainable human development co-sponsored by the NGO, Mediterranean Study Centre, was organized by **UNIC Tripoli** in connection with World Population Day, 11 July 1994. The event was attended by some 100 representatives from Government ministries, UN agencies, diplomats, the media, NGOs and academics. Migration, poverty, environment and Libyan participation in the International Conference on Population and Development were among the issues discussed.

During the seminar, certificates were presented to the two Libyan winners of the 1994 UNFPA International Poster Competition.

UNICs LAUNCH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

UNIC Dhaka's newsletter in Bangla for May and June was devoted to the 1994 Human Development Report, issued by UNDP in June. The report was launched in Bangladesh for the Asian region. The newsletter contains a major article on the human security situation in Bangladesh.

UNIC Manila says the launch of the report in the Philippines was historic. President Fidel Ramos, in his key-note address, expressed his support for the recommendations of the UNDP report and the Philippine Human Development Report, launched simultaneously. A media dialogue and a public forum followed the presentation of the reports, extensively covered by newspapers, radio and television.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Reports of regional launches of the *Human Development Report* were received from **UNIC Brussels, Cairo, Harare and Paris**. **UNIC Lisbon** translated and produced the report in Protuguese, while **UNIC Dhaka** devoted 16 pages of its newsletter in Bangla to the report. **UNIC Lome** dedicated its African Peace Bulletin to the issues of peace-keeping and human development. **UNIC Lima** co-organized a campaign entitled, "A Goal for Human Development", with the participation of the Peruvian Soccer Team. The event was widely covered by the media. **UNIC Panama** participated in the Second National Encounter on Unity and Human Development in Bambito where representatives of Panama's political circles, clergy, private and public sectors and NGOs were present.

UNIC Panama staff prepares exhibit at its premises.

UNIC Rio de Janeiro dedicated part of its daily television programme to the subject of human development and helped UNDP in Brasilia publicize the report. **UNIC Sydney** distributed the report to key media and the Officer-in-Charge, Christopher de Bono, gave two TV and three radio interviews on the contents of the report. **UNIC Tehran** prepared press releases in Farsi and English on the launch of the report. The Senior Reference Assistant at **UNIC Tokyo** briefed students of the International Christian University on the issues of the report. **UNIC Windhoek** prepared a radio programme with the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation which included an interview with the UNDP Resident Representative. **UNIC Yaounde** publicized the report through the local media.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN RWANDA

UN efforts to publicize the restoration of human rights and justice in Rwanda has been high on the agenda of UNIS Geneva. Thérèse Gastaut, Director of **UNIS Geneva** and Spokeswoman for the Secretary-General in Europe, has held briefings for UN accredited correspondents on the activities of the Commission of Experts; the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights; and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso, who is the central coordinator.

Two press conferences were held at UNIS Geneva, one with the Chairman of the Commission of Experts and one with High Commissioner Ayala Lasso. Mr. Lasso has created a task force on Rwanda, which is meeting daily. Thomas Netter of UNIS is sitting in on the meetings.

The Chief of the Press Unit, Theo Loir, addressed a group of 600 young people from Geneva who had come to Palais des Nations to express solidarity with Rwandese children.

In response to the Secretary-General's Inter-Agency appeal for humanitarian assistance to Rwanda, **UNIC London** reports that the appeal was sent to leading journalists in the media in the United Kingdom. Articles appeared in many news papers, including the Evening Standard, the Irish Times and the Observer. The Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), the umbrella organization for the United Kingdom's seven main aid agencies, appealed for aid and raised over 9 million Pounds.

The Spanish media publicized the Secretary-General's appeal, reports **UNIC Madrid**. Editorials were carried by UA and Diario urging the people of the western countries to respond to the Secretary-General's call.
UNIC Santiago describes a nation-wide campaign in which all sectors of the population participated. Chilean President Eduardo Frei delivered the collection of $2 million to Mohammed Benamar, the regional representative of the UNHCR, at a ceremony which took place at the Palacio de la Moneta in Santiago, on 30 August 1994.

Staff at United Nations Headquarters in New York responded to the appeal raising $16,000 which through UNICEF will be used to assist Rwandese children in an orphanage.

READEX
FICHE

SECOND SESSION OF PREPCOM CONCLUDED

At the end of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Social Summit, its Chairman, Juan Somavia, issued a report (A/CONF.166/PC/l.18) containing the commitments of Governments for action. Among these are:

- Develop specific national programmes with timetables to eliminate extreme poverty.
- Promote employment creation and labour-intensive investment, with the aim of achieving full employment.
- Reduce the negative social impact of structural adjustment programmes, recognizing that changes in the policies of the Bretton Woods institutions will be necessary.
- Achieve full equality between men and women.
- Promote the economic, social and human development of Africa and all least developed countries by providing a solution to the debt problem; taking special measures to facilitate trade; increasing official development assistance for social programmes; and promoting investment.
- Generate sufficient financial resources to fulfil these commitments.
- Improve the international economic environment and international financial assistance.
- Governments would also pledge to promote an equitable distribution of income and access to resources, and to facilitate a resumption of growth of the world economy and better access by developing countries to markets, investments and technologies.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Progress was made during the PrepCom towards reaching agreement on a draft Programme of Action. Remaining areas of substantive disagreement among delegates include the rights to migrate; debt reduction; the impact of structural adjustment programmes; the target of 0.7% of GNP for official development assistance; and how to monitor social development.

It is expected that by November, a revised text will be prepared, with areas of disagreement bracketed, in time for the third session of the Preparatory Committee to be held from 16 to 27 January 1995 in New York. The Committee may request that the General Assembly extend the January session by one week.

(Information retrieved from the press release, Social Summit concludes preparatory session Friday). ***(DPI 1577, 1 September 1994).***

The press release and the report issued by the Chairman can be obtained by contacting:
Development and Human Rights Section, DPI
Pragati Pascale, Information Officer
Tel: (212) 963 6870
Fax: (212) 963 7330

UNIC-FACILITATED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The recent NGO/Information Joint Committee meeting held in New York and chaired by Assistant Secretary-General Samir Sanbar stressed the need for making the substance of the Summit known as well as the usefulness of having UNICs arrange speaking-engagements for locally available senior UN officials, experts or professionals to brief local audiences on Summit issues.

NGO FORUM '95 ON THE SOCIAL SUMMIT

The NGO Forum '95 will take place at the former Naval Station on Holmen in Copenhagen during the first two weeks of March 1995, when the Social Summit is being held (6-12 March 1995).

Workshops, seminars, meetings, hearings, exhibitions, theatre performances, films, music and other events are being planned.

Representatives from organizations and NGOs interested in social development can participate. There is no requirement for accreditation in Forum '95. However, application forms will be made available in October.

HOST COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

The Host Committee of the NGO Forum '95 is composed of nine Danish NGOs. The task of the Host Committee is to co-ordinate, facilitate and communicate. Its Secretariat is headed by Jan Birket-Smith. The newsletter can be obtained by contacting:

NGO FORUM '95

Njalsgade 13c, DK-2300 Copenhagen S
Tel: (45-32) 96 19 95
Fax: (45-32) 96 89 19

For general information:
Lisbet Rubinstein
NGO Liaison Officer
Secretariat for the World Summit
for Social Development
Tel: (212) 963 1957

JOURNALISTS' ROUND TABLES

Regional journalists' round tables are being planned to stimulate interest in the Social Summit. A round table is being planned for 10-11 January 1995 in London. Other locations under consideration for pre-Summit journalists' round tables are New Delhi, New York, Nairobi and Santiago. DPI would appreciate receiving the names of noteworthy panellists, journalists and NGOs, people from "outside the system", both "luminaries and activists", to "stir up controversy" around Social Summit issues.

According to Jean-Claude Faby, Secretary of the World Summit for Social Development and Chairman of the Working Group on NGOs of the Steering Committee on the Social Summit, it is important to link the series of conferences, from Rio (UNCED) to Cairo (ICPD) and Beijing (Women's Conference) to Copenhagen. Prime time for Social Summit publicity will be January through March 1995.

For further information, please contact:
Jean-Claude Faby, Secretary
World Summit for Social Development
Fax: (212) 963 1010

PRINT PRODUCTS

In addition to the media kits which have already been distributed, a series of more than 20 Inter-Agency Fact Sheets on Social Summit issues are being produced in an ongoing stream. The first series, jointly produced by DPI and UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, ILO, the Ageing Unit and the Secretariat for the International Year of the Family, are being pouched in September.

In addition, a Social Summit poster is currently being produced in all six official languages, as well as 5,000 blanks for printing in local languages.

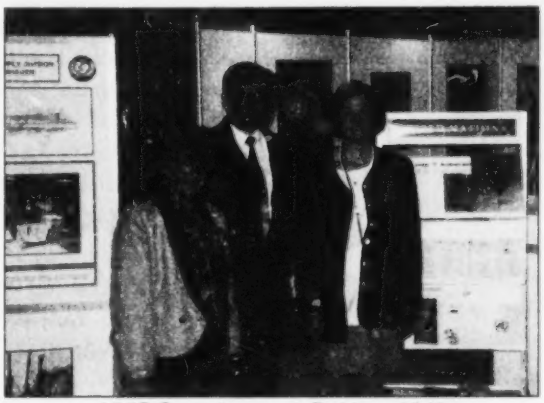
For further information, please contact:
Adrea Mach, Inter-Agency Outreach
DHRS/PPSD/DPI, Room S-1040C
Fax: (212) 963 7330

UNICS PREPARE FOR SOCIAL SUMMIT

With less than six months before the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen (6-12 March 1995), UNICs have begun mobilizing the attention of the news media, NGOs and academic institutions to the Summit in Denmark.

Local Language Prodctions

Most UNICs/UNISs that produce newsletters have included articles in local languages about Summit preparations. **UNIC Dhaka** has prepared articles on the Summit in Bangla which were used by the local newspapers. **UNIC La Paz** has issued press releases in Spanish. **UNIS Addis Ababa** has translated Summit backgrounders facts sheets, and documents into Amharic, Oromia and Tigrean. **UNIC Bucharest** has translated Summit documents into Romanian for legislators, academics, NGOs and the media. Arabic, Dutch, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Thai are other languages in which materials have been produced by UNICs.



UNIC Copenhagen staff at its exhibition " People and Development" in Helsinki.

UNIC Islamabad made sure that the media and NGOs received the Executive Summary of the two main documents of the Summit (the draft Programme of Action and the draft Declaration) with a note on the Preparatory Committee's second meeting in New York from 22 August to 2 September. As a result, Pakistani newspapers brought out extended coverage of the preparations for the Summit.

UNIC Copenhagen has begun an intense public information programme in Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish to promote Summit issues in the Nordic countries. The Centre is collaborating with the Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in producing information materials on the Summit.

Seminars

UNIC Santa Fé de Bogota participated in the Andean Social Summit organized by the Andean Parliament, at which unemployment, poverty and social disintegration were discussed. **UNIC Bucharest** was the co-organizer of a seminar, the results of which were presented to the recent Preparatory Committee on the Social Summit. **UNIC Moscow** has organized briefings for university students and NGOs. **UNIC Manila** is organizing a youth congress in collaboration with UNESCO and the Government of the Philippines.

UNIC Bucharest co-organized a public debate on Summit issues with the Romanian Government. Participants were members of Parliament, the Romanian President's Counsellor, academy members, trade union members, NGOs and the media. Many speakers pointed out that the social development problems of the countries in transition, including Romania, were not represented in the two Social Summit documents. It was agreed at the meeting that a Romanian National Committee for the Social Summit should be set up and begin consultation on the national report.

UNIC Brussels planned a round table with the UNAs of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands bringing together key individuals and institutions at the national, European and international level involved in social development.

A debate on the challenges of the Summit led by two officials of the Cameroon Government and a programme officer from UNDP took place at **UNIC Yaounde**. Among the participants were representatives from NGOs, the media and UN officials. One-day seminars have been planned by **UNIC Dar es Salaam, New Delhi, Paris** and **Rabat**. Journalists, NGOs, Government representatives and academics are the target audiences.

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SEMINAR ON ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Ethnic conflicts and public policies were the subjects of a three-day seminar held at Headquarters from 17 to 19 August. More than 150 leading policy makers, scholars, development experts, NGO representatives and journalists from around the world took part in the meeting. It was organized by the UN Research Institute for Social Development, a Geneva-based autonomous think-tank, and co-sponsored by UNDP.

Upsurge of Ethnic Conflicts

In recent years there has been an upsurge in ethnic, religious and racial conflict worldwide, according to a report on the findings of the seminar. After the Cold War, less attention was given to containing conflicts, it says. In addition, there has been severe social and economic disruption, resulting in widespread poverty, unemployment and insecurity, especially in Africa, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Ethnic Understanding

However, the report says, ethnic conflict is neither inevitable nor eternal. The best thing a state can do is to "present a complementary basis for identity — civic identity — by creating the conditions that allow all groups within society to feel a sense of a common purpose and mutual respect".

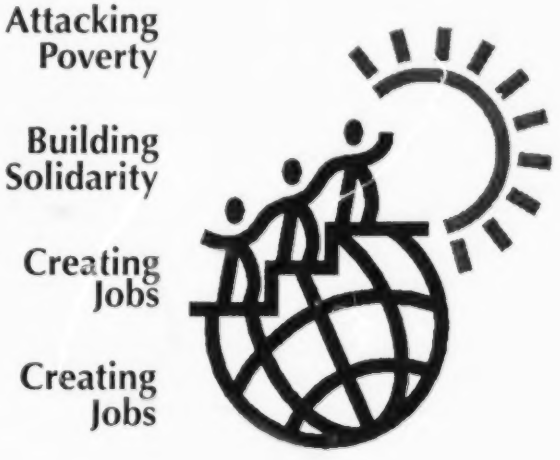
Ways to promote ethnic understanding include public policies dealing with education, language, religion and cultural practices. Formal education is one of the most promising ways to create a shared sense of civic identity and transcends ethnicity and promotes tolerance, the report says.

Among the speakers at the seminar were Samuel R. Insanally, President of the forty-eighth General Assembly; Juan Somavia, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Social Summit; Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development: Ismat Kittani, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General; Nicholas Haysom, legal adviser to President Nelson Mandela of South Africa; Ali Mazrui, of the Institute of Global Studies at Binghamton University, New York; and Crawford Young, Director of the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin, United States. ***(For a complete list of participants, please see press release SOC/4298, 16 August 1994).***

SOCIAL SUMMIT-RELATED OBSERVANCES

·10 October	International Day for the Elderly
·17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
·18 October	International Year of the Family (GA observance)
· 1 December	World AIDS Day
· 3 December	International Day of Disabled Persons
·10 December	Human Rights Day
· 8 March	International Women's Day (A special full-day event is being planned for the occasion as a pre-Summit activity in Copenhagen)

WORLD SUMMIT LOGO



SOCIAL SUMMIT

PUBLICATIONS ON SOCIAL SUMMIT

Press kit on World Summit for Social Development ***(DPI/1495 1994, English, French and Spanish).*** Contains press releases, factsheets, logo, backgrounders on the three main issues: poverty, unemployment and social disintegration as well as a backgrounder on the relationship between the International Conference on Population and Development and the Social Summit (DPI/1554), and a Conference brochure (DPI/1499). Contents of the kit are being sent separately to UNICs, as limited quantities are available.

UNRISD MATERIALS

(UN Research Institute for Social Development)

World Summit for Social Development, Social Integration: Approaches and Issues. UNRISD briefing paper series 1.

The crisis of Social Development in the 1990s: Preparing for the World Social Summit. Report of UNRISD's 30th anniversary conference, Geneva, 7-8 July 1993.

UNRISD Occasional Paper no.1-3,

World Summit for Social Development.

Social Safety Nets and Adjustment in Developing Countries, by Jessica Vivian.

Globalization and Social Integration: Patterns and Processes, by Dharam Ghai and Cynthia Hewitt de Alacantara.

Is There a Crisis in the Family?, by Henrietta Moore.

DOCUMENTS

Elements for the draft declaration: Progress report presented by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.166/PC/L.18, 31 August).
The report describes informal consultations conducted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee during its second session.

Elements for possible inclusion in a draft on the status of the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF.166/PC/L.20 1 September). Contains information about a Trust Fund for the Social Summit, activities undertaken by the Preparatory Committee since its first session, NGOs and public information programmes.

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HABITAT

WORLD HABITAT DAY

World Habitat Day observed annually on the first Monday of October is taking on increased importance as the UN Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 June 1996, draws near.

A panel discussion on home and family will take place at Headquarters on 3 October, under the auspices of the Secretary-General of Habitat II, Dr. Wally N'Dow. Among the invited speakers are Jonathan Lash, President of the World Resources Institute; Ella Cisneros, President of the Together Foundation for Global Unity; Michael Cohen, Senior Adviser, The World Bank; and Nejat Erder, Adviser to the President of the Housing Development Administration, Turkey.

A photographic exhibition will be opened in connection with the panel discussion. Both events will take place in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium at 3 p.m. on 3 October.

Available Materials:

Media kit produced by HABITAT with articles highlighting the importance of women's role in the family and the home as a workplace, among other things.

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For more information, please contact:
UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)
New York Office, United Nations Room DC2-943
Tel: (212) 963 4200
Fax: (212) 963 8721

LAW OF THE SEA

CONVENTION TO ENTER INTO FORCE IN NOVEMBER

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will enter into force on 16 November 1994. The Convention was agreed upon in 1982, and in November, the 100 required signatures will have been received.

The Convention will provide a global legal framework for virtually all human activities on, in and under seas. It incorporates customary laws and more recent national practices, while breaking new ground and creating new laws in many instances.

Sea-Bed Authority and Tribunal located in Jamaica and Germany

Two major institutions will be established once the Convention enters into force -- the International Sea-bed Authority, with headquarters in Jamaica, and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, Germany. The Sea-bed Authority will control all economic activities in the international area of the sea-bed, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. It will be financially and administratively independent of the United Nations, with its own Secretary-General.

The Tribunal of the Law of the Sea will be available to States for settlement of disputes.

Ceremonial Session

The first session of the Assembly of the Sea-Bed Authority will be held in Jamaica on 16 November, when the Convention on the Law of the Sea will enter into force. The UN Secretary-General is expected to attend at the ceremonial session from 16-18 November. The Assembly will convene again in Jamaica for four weeks starting on 6 February 1995.

AVAILABLE MATERIALS

Documents

Agreement relating to the implementation of part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (A/RES/48/263, 17 August 1994).

The Law of the Sea, a Bibliography on the law of the Sea 1968-1988. Two decades of law-making, state practice and doctrine (multilingual supplement). The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, July 1993.

DPI Publications

DPI will produce a press kit with backgrounders and press releases on the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Other Publications

Law and Order in the Oceans. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Division for Ocean Affairs (93391, October 1993). This booklet is available in English and French.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Families who are victims of extreme poverty will take part in an event at Headquarters to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October. A delegation of 300 poor parents and individuals from about 40 countries will participate in the event.

Organized jointly by DPI and the Fourth World Movement, the event is sponsored by the Permanent Mission of France to the UN. The programme includes a message by the Secretary-General, readings in French and English, testimonies by poor families and songs by UN singers. The observance will help focus on all those who suffer from the hardship of poverty and is intended as a link to the 1994 International Year of the Family and the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

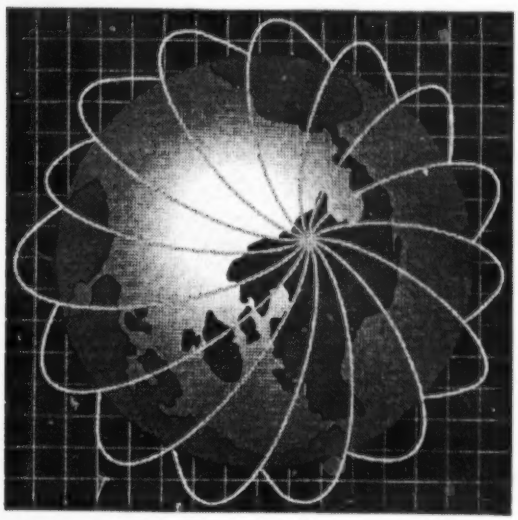
UNCTAD

1994 TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Trade and Development Report, 1994, warns that the world economy is emerging from recession at a much slower rate than is normal for a cyclical recovery, and even below the sustainable long-term growth rate. The report, published on 15 September by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), forecasts 1994 global output growth at just 2.5 per cent.

UNCTAD argues that given the severe situation in many developing and transition countries, it is urgent that the international community rethink development policies. Directly challenging the notion that drastically reducing the role of Government in the economy while encouraging unbridled free enterprise is a sure recipe for rapid and sustained growth, the report points to the extremely effective government intervention employed in Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan, Province of China. The "economic miracle" in these economies "was not entirely a miracle of the market", it says.

The 1994 Trade and Development Report is a UN Publication (Sales no. E.94.II.D.26, pp.199).



WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON TRADE EFFICIENCY

World leaders from business, government and the fields of information technology, communications and international trade will gather in Columbus, Ohio, USA from 17 to 21 October, to discuss the advancement of international trade. The World Symposium on Trade Efficiency represents a landmark in the UN Trade Efficiency Initiative sponsored by UNCTAD.

It comprises four distinct yet interrelated components: World Symposium on Trade Efficiency; Global Summit for Mayors; Global Executive Trade Summit; World Trade Efficiency and Technology Exhibition.

For more information, please contact:
Development and Human Rights Section, DPI
Bill Hass, Information Officer
Tel: (212) 963 0353
Fax: (212) 963 7330

xxx

WHAT IS THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The World Food Programme (WFP), established in 1961, became operative in 1963, initially on an experimental basis. It has since become the food aid and related logistics arm of the UN system. Headquartered in Rome, WFP has field offices in 85 developing countries and liaison offices in both New York and Geneva.

WFP is the principal multilateral channel for the provision of food aid in support of development activities and for emergency relief operations, with this dual role making it a major source of grant resources to developing countries. The Programme's annual turnover in 1993 — the sum of all resources managed by it — was $1.4 billion. The volume of commodities of its own and that handled on behalf of bilateral donors amounted to 4.1 million tons.

NEW MATERIALS

DPI PUBLICATIONS

Promoting a Culture for Peace in the Middle East, An Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue, DPI/1465, May 1994. The proceedings of DPI's International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine, 9-11 June 1993, London.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The World's Women 1970-1990, United Nations publication, Sales no. E.90.XVII.3. Available in English, French, Chinese and Spanish. This book reflects the work of many parts of the United Nations, not only in collecting statistics on women, but also in presenting and interpreting them in such a way that policy makers and people all over the world can use them to advance the status of women through legislation, development strategies and effective lobbying.

Commodity review and outlook 1993-1994, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome. The year 1993-1994 will be recalled as the year during which the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations was concluded. The agreement is expected to help boost world trade and incomes over the next decade. This report analyses the global market situation and reviews the status of commodities. FAO Economic and Social Development Series No.52, ISSN 0071-7002.

DOCUMENTS

ECOSOC

Committee for Development Planning, report of the twenty-ninth session (12-14 January 1994). Official records, supplement no.2.

Commission on Human Rights, report of the fiftieth session (31 january - 11 March 1994). ECOSOC official records, supplement no. 4

Economic Commission for Europe, annual report (April 1993 - April 1994). Official Records, 1994, Supplement no. 17.

NEWSBRIEFS

AGREEMENT ON SPORTS AND ENVIRONMENT

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have agreed to promote environmental protection not only in future Olympics, but also in other international sporting competitions.

The agreement, signed on 1 July in Lausanne, Switzerland, calls on UNEP and IOC to "jointly undertake specific international actions" to help make sports competitions environment-friendly. Technical guidelines for environmental principles will be drawn up to be used in the selection, construction and holding of sport events.

According to Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, "the Olympic Games in the year 2000 were awarded to the city of Sydney, Australia, partly because of the consideration they gave to environmental matters". UNEP and IOC will work together to organize a conference on sports and the environment. ***(Press release HE/862, 16 August 1994).***

1994 International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal (A/RES/48/10 and 11). In 1993, the General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of Sport and urged Member States to observe an "Olympic Truce" for a week before and after each of the Olympic Games.

DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE DISCUSSED BY NGOS

The social and economic development of Palestine was the subject of the joint UN International NGO Meeting and the European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine held in Geneva from 29 August to 1 September. Palestinian unemployment was as high as 40 per cent in certain areas of the Israeli-occupied territories, speakers said. The slow flow of funds to the Palestinian National Authority was another cause for concern. The question of Palestine will be debated during the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly. ***(Press releases GA/PAL/668-669, 2 September).***

HABITAT

Continued from page 8

HOMELESSNESS

Over one billion people - almost a quarter of the global population - are inadequately housed; of these more than 100 million people are absolutely homeless, according to the UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT). The majority of homeless live in developing countries, but homelessness is a problem in industrialized countries too. More than a million people in Western Europe are without homes; in the United States, the National Coalition for the Homeless, a NGO, estimates that between three to five million people are without permanent homes on any given night.

The homeless and inadequately housed comprise almost half the inhabitants in large cities in developing countries. For Example, it is estimated that 70 per cent of the population of Alexandria, Egypt, lives in slums and squatter settlements; in Delhi, India, and Mexico city, Mexico, the equivalent percentage is about 60 per cent.

According to a 1990 report released by WHO, 1.2 billion people in developing countries do not have access to drinking water and 1.8 billion people live without access to adequate sanitation.

HOUSING AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

The right to adequate housing is one of the economic, social and cultural rights to have gained increasing attention and promotion among human rights bodies, says HABITAT. For instance, Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes the right of everyone to "an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including food clothing and housing, and the continuous improvement of living conditions".

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Continued from page 3

AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNIC Lima organized a round table on the Secretary-General's report, *An Agenda for Development* on 6 July. Among the speakers were Enrique Bernales, former President of the UN Human Rights Commission; Antonio Brack Egg, Co-ordinator of the UNDP project on Biodiversity Preservation; Rev. Father Felipe Mac Gregor, member of the Administration Council of the UN University; and Francisci Sagasti, World Bank consultant.

The round table was covered by the Peruvian press with articles, editorials, radio and television. International media, including Reuters, and ECO, a Latin American media network which is part of Televisa (Mexico). Isaias Gomez-Linares, Officer-in-Charge of UNIC Lima, organized the event.

UNIC Dakar reports extensive media coverage, including radio and television discussions on RTS, front-page coverage of the Secretary-General's speech at the opening session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.

SOCIAL SUMMIT

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RADIO AND TELEVISION

UNIC La Paz is planning a series of TV spots on the Social Summit and **UNIC Athens** is adapting DPI videos into Greek and Hebrew. **UNIS Bangkok** is adapting DPI materials into Thai. Radio interviews with regional experts are being co-produced by **UNIS Addis Ababa**, and a series of radio programmes in Arabic and French are being planned by **UNIC Rabat** as a follow-up to the Summit.

DPI PROGRAMME UPDATE

A fortnightly publication of the Programme Support Section (PSS), Information Centres Service (ICS), DPI.
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